



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

Jaime A. Molera  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

August 15, 2001  
CN 10-02

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Administrators, National School Lunch Program

From: Linda Rider, MS, RD  
School Nutrition Programs

Subject: Using U.S. Armed Forces Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowances (FSSA) to determine eligibility in the Child Nutrition Programs.

To help certain low-income service members from relying on food stamps, the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act requires the Armed Forces to pay eligible service members a Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA). This pay will not exceed \$500 per month, and will be given to service members starting June 1, 2001.

FSSA payments are to be included as income for eligibility to the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP). Therefore, families receiving this payment must report it as earned income for the household.

The Leave and Earnings Statement for the Marines will identify the payments as "FSSA." For the Army, Navy, and Air Force it will temporarily be identified as "Saved Pay" and will later change to "FSSA." Some families receiving these FSSA benefits will still be eligible for free and reduced meals. Some families will receive food stamps along with FSSA benefits and are therefore automatically eligible for free meals in the CNP.

If you have further questions regarding this policy please call your Child Nutrition Specialist at (602) 542-8700.